

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1866.

RANDOLPH-MACON.

COLLEGE AFFAIRS DISCUSSED IN THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Interesting Talk from Dr. Edwards—Reports from Board of Finance—General Affairs, &c.

(Reported for the Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, November 23, 1866.

The rain fell continuously last night. The dust was always and the streets made a little slippery. The sun was breaking through often in the clouds, and at 10 the heavens were bright and the earth bathed in sunshine. The temperature is in the neighborhood of the summer-mark.

Only about twenty-five members were present this morning at the annual conference, which was conducted by Rev. J. D. Smith, one of the oldest members of the conference, the Bishop in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read, corrected in some minor particulars, and approved.

Rev. A. S. Shepard, who was paralyzed in the Conference-room on yesterday, was much better this morning, and that his physician thought he would be able to travel. He had an appropriate expression of thankfulness to God. Professor Shepard is proctor of Randolph-Macon College, and is much beloved by his brethren throughout the State.

The Bishop proceeded with the call under question 26th.—Are all the preachers entitled to compensation in their life and official administration?

Rev. C. E. Waits, presiding elder of the Danville district, reported his district in a prosperous condition.

When the name Dr. Edwards was called, he interested in some interesting reminiscences of his ministerial life, which stretches back over fifty-two years. He said he was going to heaven when he died; that it was his custom to tell his wife what went out if he did not return she would know where to find him.

Rev. A. J. Bradshaw presented the report of the Board of Finance.

The report of the Conference collection for worn-out preachers and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers shows receipts for the year from the circuits and stations, \$7,000. The amount appropriated for worn-out preachers and their families, \$2,800; to widows and orphans of deceased preachers, \$4,200. The checks for the money were distributed in the beneficiaries of their representatives.

The receipts for foreign missions were \$12,137, of which \$10,000 were for foreign stations, \$1,480, educational fund, \$2,290, and church extension, \$2,769.

The total benevolent collections from the circuits and stations amount to the sum of \$30,000.

Rev. H. N. Stedel presented the report of the Conference Board of Missions. He said the receipts of the Board fell 20 per cent. below the amount appropriated. The Board was consequently only able to pay eight cents on the dollar of the claims of those who had served in the foreign mission fields. The amount appropriated was \$4,000; the amount paid, \$2,000.

Rev. A. J. Bradshaw, retired from the ministry, and through his presiding elder, Rev. C. E. Waits, surrendered to the Conference the credentials of ordination.

Rev. J. W. Bogard, presiding elder of the Randolph-Macon district, has an interesting reminiscence of his ministerial life, which stretches back over forty-five years. He said he was going to heaven when he died; that it was his custom to tell his wife what went out if he did not return she would know where to find him.

The Bishop asked him if he had any children. He said he had three sons, two of whom were dead, and one still living.

The report of the Board of Education was read, and some questions were directed to the Board by the Bishop.

Rev. A. B. Warwick, who had left the work assigned him at the last conference, was allowed to make a statement of his case before the Board in the act. The signature of Mr. Warwick was presented to the closest attention. The conference was satisfied that while suffering from an infirmity he had earned his right to be excused.

He said he was most evidently of conscientious scruples, though rather than motives. His character passed without a dissenting voice.

Dr. Bennett asked to be put on the effective list. He said his health was much improved, and he wished to reenter the active work.

Rev. S. Reed, presiding elder of the Farmville district, reported his district in good and prosperous condition.

Rev. P. A. Peterson presented the following resolutions, signed by himself and others, which were adopted:

That we do all of great importance to the prosperity of our Church work that the movement to endow Randolph-Macon College be pushed with vigor and supported with enthusiasm by the whole church.

That Bishop Granberry be earnestly requested to give his influence to this movement in behalf of his beloved alma mater, and to use his opportunity with the Church at large to aid in accomplishing the object which we know he has so much at heart.

Rev. George H. Fox, presiding elder of the Petersburg district, gave a most encouraging account of the work in his district. Many hundreds have been converted in the district, and most of the financial claims against the charges have been paid down to the last cent.

Rev. William H. Christian presented and read the report of the Conference Board of Education.

The report shows the educational interests of the church to be in healthy condition. It urges the full endowment of Randolph-Macon College, and the generous support of the various colleges, seminaries, and institutions of the church for the education of females.

Rev. W. W. Smith, president of Randolph-Macon College, addressed the Conference in the interests of education as a leading factor in the advancement of Christianity and Christian civilization.

The speech was vigorous and elastic. It was an excellent address to the Board of the trustees, and the audience was greatly impressed by the frankness and directness of the speaker's presentation.

Mr. Jackson, of the Davie Female College, represented that institution in a brief speech. He says his college is a Methodist institution, and by the provisions of its charter can never be anything else. He says the college is only three years old, but is well equipped and has the highest success in bringing the world to Christ.

Professor Smith, of the University of Virginia, made a brief but strong speech in favor of the liberal education and hearty support of the church.

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Rev. F. A. Peterson presented the report of the Conference Board of Church Extension. The Board discussed this year, to aid in the erection of churches within the bounds of the conference, and the amount raised by the old and most noted Methodist college in the South, these debts were all discharged as the speaker proposed to enforce the importance of increasing and making diligent use of all educational facilities. He said if we could not afford the highest success in bringing the world to Christ.

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